



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Mountain
Plains
Region

1244 Speer Boulevard
Denver, CO 80204-3585

Reply to
Attn. of:

SP 94-70

MAY 24 1994

Subject: Healthy Meals Initiative

To: STATE AGENCY DIRECTORS - Colorado ED, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri ED,
(Special Nutrition Programs) Montana OPI, Nebraska ED, North Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming ED

As we discussed last week in Kansas City, we expect that a proposed regulation will be published soon in the Federal Register specifying the Agency's plans to implement changes in the school meals program. The exact date of publication is not known at this time, but we do expect it within the next few weeks.

This regulatory initiative, or Healthy Meals Initiative, was developed in response to the testimony received at the Child Nutrition Hearings that were held across the nation, the written comments received from interested parties who were not able to attend the hearings and several focused consultations with food service personnel, chefs and children. The initiative focuses on policies to provide all children with access to healthful meals.

We expect Secretary Espy and Assistant Secretary Haas will hold a press conference to announce the Agency's Healthy Meals Initiative and to review the specific school meals proposed regulation. The press conference will be available through USDA's televideo facilities. As soon as we are informed of the exact date, time and satellite coordinates, we will notify you in case you wish to see the press conference live. We will also make every effort to get you an advance copy of the proposed regulation since you may receive some public or media inquiries soon after the press conference and publication.

In the meantime, we need some information from you. We believe it will be desirable to be able to discuss the proposed rule with you very soon after its publication. We can do that either by conference call or by convening a one-day meeting in our office in Denver. Please let us know your preference. In addition, we would like to know what technical assistance we can provide with regard to the Healthy Meals Initiative. For example, if you would like us to meet with you, your staff, and perhaps some key school food service directors sometime during the comment period, we will make every effort to do so. Please send the preceding information to us to be received by June 2. If you need to send it via datafax, our fax number is (303) 844-2234.

Please contact us if you have further questions.

Ann C. DeGroat
ANN C. DEGROAT
Regional Director
Special Nutrition Programs